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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/700,615	11/17/2000	Hideomi Shishido	ADI-072	7325

7590 11/29/2001

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EXAMINER

WONG, STEVEN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2001

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/700,615

Applicant(s)

Shishido

Examiner

Steven Wong

Art Unit

3711



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 17, 2000

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 5,6

20) Other: _____

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Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the references to the claims on page 4-6, 20 and 21 are improper; the reference numbers "6, 6, - - -", "8, 8, - - -", "9, 9, - - -", "S, S, - - -" on pages 9-11 are unclear.

Appropriate correction is required.

2. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout and content for patent applications. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

The following order or arrangement is preferred in framing the specification and, except for the reference to "Microfiche Appendix" and the drawings, each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as section headings. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) Title of the Invention.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications.
- (c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research or Development.
- (d) Reference to a "Microfiche Appendix" (see 37 CFR 1.96).
- (e) Background of the Invention.
 - 1. Field of the Invention.
 - 2. Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) Brief Summary of the Invention.
- (g) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s).
- (h) Detailed Description of the Invention.
- (i) Claim or Claims (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) Abstract of the Disclosure (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) Drawings.
- (l) Sequence Listing (see 37 CFR 1.821-1.825).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 1, the language "directly or through a cover rubber layer" is unclear as it presents two different embodiments in the same claim.

In claim 8, the language "the woven fabric" and "the shock absorbing member" lack a proper antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 3, 4/1, 4/3 and 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Molitor et al. in view of Kralik. Regarding claim 1, Molitor et al. disclose an inflated game ball comprising an elastic spherical bladder (21), a plurality of leather panels (19) and a thickness

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adjusting member (15a, 17). However, Molitor et al. lacks the teaching for a reinforced layer formed on the whole surface of the bladder.

Kralik reveals an inflated game ball comprising an elastic bladder (12). The bladder includes a reinforced layer (20) formed on a whole surface of the bladder. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the bladder of Molitor et al. with a reinforced layer in order to further strengthen the bladder.

Also, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to bond the reinforcing layer and thickness adjusting member to the leather panels in order to firmly secure the panels to the ball.

Regarding claim 3, note Figure 4 which shows the leather panel folded at 90 degrees.

Regarding claim 4, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to bond the panels instead of using stitching (20) in order to provide an alternative means for securing the panels together.

Regarding claims 6-10, the thickness adjust member (17) of Molitor et al. comprises a fabric and a foamed sponge layer (15a).

Regarding claim 11, Kralik notes that the reinforcing layer is to be formed from polyurethane. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form the film layer of Kralik from a polyethylene, polyester or polypropylene material in order to take advantage of that material's well known physical characteristics.

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7. Claims 2, 4/2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Molitor et al. in view of Kralik and JP 38-16729. JP 38-16729 discloses a spherical game ball comprising a plurality of leather panels which are folded inwards at approximately 180 degrees. JP 38-16729 also provides a plurality of notches along the folded portions. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the 90 degree turns of Molitor with the 180 degree turns of JP 38-16729 in order to provide an alternative structure for attaching the leather panels to the bladder.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Wong whose telephone number is (703) 308-3135.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

Official responses, subject to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.6(d), can be faxed to (703) 305-3579.

Unofficial faxes which are meant for discussion purposes only should be sent to (703) 308-7768. It is strongly suggested that the examiner be contacted directly before sending any unofficial fax.

Steven Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3711

SBW
November 9, 2001

Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)

6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTO-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a)

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.